

They are different in the Midwest than they are in the Northeast. We know that there is diversity in this country, and we should allow for those differences and the improvement reforms necessary to make it so that we are not accepting the status quo. I would ask the gentleman to take a look at that again as something that perhaps we can work on together.

I would also say, again, the jobs numbers, the gentleman is completely correct that these job numbers, this latest report this morning reflects the lowest number of jobs added since January of 2011. That doesn't speak well about the track record of what is going on here. So let's focus on jobs together.

As for the question about immigration, Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman is right. Immigration reform could be an economic boon to this country. We have got to do it right; and along those lines, the Speaker has said that we are going to look for the release of a list of principles of our position in the majority here in the House of what we believe is an appropriate path forward for immigration reform.

There are plenty of things that we can agree on. As the gentleman knows, I have been a strong proponent of the KIDS Act that I am working with the chairman of the committee on, because I think all of us can agree that we shouldn't hold kids liable for the misdeeds or illegal acts of their parents. This country has never been about that. There are plenty of things like that, strong border security, and making sure that that occurs first so we don't see a continuing problem of illegal immigration.

I think there are plenty of areas for agreement. Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, we can see after the release of a set of principles of our side that there can be some productive discussions, bipartisan with the White House, so that it is not "my way or the highway," and then we can see a proper way forward.

□ 1115

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for his comments.

Certainly we are not proponents of "my way or the highway," and I am glad, I do believe, that hopefully the majority leader is not either.

Briefly, on the SKILLS Act, we have legislation, of course, on our side of the aisle, a number of pieces of legislation which deal with training, job skills, and we are certainly prepared to work on those. Unfortunately, as the gentleman knows, that bill passed out in a partisan way. There were two Democrats who voted for it. But I am certainly willing to work with the gentleman, and I think our side of the aisle is willing to work with the gentleman to invest and to give flexibility so that we can recognize, obviously, that what may be needed in my district or the gentleman from Virginia's district is different from a district in Washington State or California or

Texas or Florida or Maine. So I want to assure the gentleman that we are prepared to work on that.

Next, can I ask you when those principles that you talked about might be expected, because I think that would be a very positive step forward. But, in my view, if we wait long, comprehensive immigration reform will not get accomplished, as I believe it should be, in the next few months.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CANTOR. I would say to the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that there is an expectation that the list of principles will be released in the near future, and that is about as definite as I can be. But again, the sense is that there is common agreement on certain issues.

I think that, unfortunately, thus far, given the track record around this town, there is very little room for discussion, negotiations, and hopefully this can be different. But thus far, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that we are looking for the release of those principles in the near future.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

And in conclusion, let me simply say, Mr. Leader, that we welcome moving ahead on the omnibus. We think that is very critical. We hope that we can address the unemployment insurance issue, not as a substitute for focusing on growing jobs and growing the economy, which is essential, but in recognition that some 1.3 million people—growing by 72,000 people a week—are in deep distress, and we want to help them. We think that is the right thing to do. And we think America can do both, grow the economy and help those who have been hurt by the decrease in the availability of jobs available.

Lastly, I might say, that we also hope that we can get to immigration reform as quickly as possible, and we look forward to seeing those principles.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIDENSTINE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

WEB SITE SECURITY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, although the www.healthcare.gov Web site launch was a severe disappointment, an even greater concern has been expressed regarding the Web site's security vulnerabilities, including the security of personal and medical information.

What is most concerning is that it appears to be more important for this administration to avoid political fallout than to conduct a thorough evaluation of the Web site's security. Unfortunately, it has become very clear that the rushed implementation of the launch has affected the site's ability to perform on both accounts.

Mr. Speaker, if the administration wants the confidence of the American people, they should make every effort to ensure private information is kept private. The bill we passed today with significant bipartisan support, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act, would require the Department of Health and Human Services to notify individuals if their personal information has been stolen or unlawfully accessed through an ObamaCare exchange. This is a simple, common-sense reform that will go a long way to help stem the fears that Americans have with the online exchanges and the security of their personal information. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve as much.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

(Mr. PETERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, in southern California and across the American West, 2013 was another year of extremely dry conditions. And as of today, snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, which is our water storage facility, is well below its seasonal average.

In 2011 and 2012, drought and heat waves cost the United States \$90 billion in economic damages, further evidence of the economic harm we are enduring due to climate change and increasingly extreme weather. 2012 saw the worst drought in the country in 50 years, with more than 80 percent of the country designated a drought disaster-affected area by late November. Since the year 2000, there have been nine droughts that have each cost more than \$1 billion in damages.

Research from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, sponsored by the Climate Initiative at The San Diego Foundation, has shown that in San Diego the main effects of climate change are rising sea levels, more intense wildfires, and increased pressure on water supplies.

It is time to get serious about climate change so that we can protect our scarce water resources that hydrate our farms and our families.

Go, Chargers.

HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana's

outstanding first responders and emergency management officials because, when times truly get tough, we rely on them to protect our loved ones, neighbors, and friends, and we rely on them to save lives.

This past week, a nearly unprecedented wave of frigid temperatures and snow bore down on the Hoosier State. In Madison County, Indiana, windchills plummeted to nearly 40 degrees below zero. In Hamilton County, Indiana, more than a foot of snow made roads unpassable. At one point, there were more than 70,000 power outages in our State, and schools actually still remain closed even today, for the entire week.

Fortunately, Hoosiers were able to rely on a coordinated and effective response from government officials, first responders, utility providers, and volunteers. They relied on our National Guard, which stepped up to assist in clearing roads. They relied on police officers and firefighters, who went door-to-door. They relied on the Red Cross, which set up numerous emergency shelters. In Indianapolis, they relied on the Mayor's Action Center, which took more than 10,000 calls to address their concerns.

It is times like these when we are reminded how much we rely on our emergency management people. We rely on them to be ready, and they always answer the call. For that, we are so grateful.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, less than 2 weeks ago, more than 1 million Americans lost access to unemployment insurance benefits. Another 3.5 million will be impacted if Congress doesn't act. American families will lose that tiny amount of money, that small amount of money that keeps food on the table for millions of Americans.

Has unemployment decreased? Well, it has decreased a bit. But unfortunately, unemployment is still too high for the people of the San Fernando Valley and many places around our country. Californians have already lost more than \$64 million in unemployment income just in this past week.

This is unacceptable. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of Americans struggling to buy food for their families; and, unfortunately, the budget that was passed recently did just that.

We must act now and pass an unemployment insurance extension bill immediately. We need to continue the opportunity for these millions of American families to be able to put food on the table. That is the America that we grew up in, and that is the America that we have to figure out how to keep going forward.

An extension of unemployment insurance occurred under President George

W. Bush, continues under President Obama, but this Congress needs to act to make sure we continue now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMIRI BARAKA

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor to honor the life and legacy of an icon, poet Amiri Baraka, who died yesterday in his hometown of Newark, New Jersey, at the age of 79.

Born during a time when racial tensions were at their peak, Amiri Baraka used poetry to empower and enlighten. He eventually founded the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and '70s in Newark and around the country, and received countless awards for his contributions to the arts.

My father and he attended high school together, and I will never forget, as a youngster, hearing Amiri Baraka's poetry and recognizing the power his written words had over a person, regardless of race, age, or gender.

Amiri Baraka was not only a poet, he was an activist. In 1969, he organized the Black and Puerto Rican Convention, which brought those communities together at a time when it looked bleak. He also was one of the main organizers and the keynote speaker of the 1972 Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana. His profound words were influential as many searched for meaning in some of the most troubling struggles of our time, like civil rights, war, oppression, and poverty.

My heartfelt condolences go out to the entire Baraka family, including my former colleague, Newark City Council Member Ras Baraka, and his brother Amiri Baraka, whom I have come very close to over the course of the past 4 or 5 years. To their mother, who has brought me in as almost a son as well, my deepest sympathy. I know where you are. I have been there just a short while ago. But let it be known, today the Nation is in deep mourning at his passing.

LIBERTY AND TYRANNY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, sometimes people say, Gee, if you are back here in Texas, you ought to be in Washington in session. I have to remind them that when we are in session, it is often the single biggest threat to American liberty, because when we are in session, we pass laws; and most every law, in some way, impacts people's liberty in one way or another, for good or for bad.

So often we think we know so much more here in Washington, that we can do so much better than others. And, of

course, that message is not helped by ignorance in the media, particularly left-wing and so many in the mainstream.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke a couple of days ago here about a real burden on my heart for women who are lured into ruts by promises of money by the Federal Government, lured into dependence, and how that is immoral for the government to do that. The government is not supposed to encourage or lure people into conduct that is not helpful to the individual. The government is supposed to be about encouraging good conduct. But if you do evil, then you should be afraid of the government because, as Romans says, God didn't give the sword to the government in vain.

That is the point, that we should not be about encouraging or paying people to engage in conduct that is hurtful to them. And yet ignorance in the left wing of our media is so pervasive that you could actually have people write stories saying I was up here blaming single moms. I mean, it is either ignorance or just complete dishonesty of people that want to destroy the very fabric and foundation of this country because of their ill will for all that is good and wholesome.

□ 1130

Why would they want to protect a system that lures people into dependency and prevents them from reaching their God-given potential? I realize some of them don't believe there is a God, and that is problematic because, since the Founders believed that we were endowed by a Creator with certain inalienable rights, among those life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, if you don't believe there is a Creator, it creates a problem, because then you have to think that government is the sole source of your rights, and if that is the case, you really have no rights.

C.S. Lewis pointed out after he went from being an atheist to being a believer in some God, some universal authority of right and wrong, if you don't believe that, then there can be no justice, no right and no wrong, if there is not a universal standard. So if it is relying on some government to establish what is right and not an innate sense instilled in us by some Higher Power, then there's no hope for most people of ever having rights, freedoms and liberties as we have had in this country.

It is plain that as we become more and more secular, there become fewer and fewer liberties and less and less privacy. Now especially, looking at ObamaCare, the government invades every room in the house. It used to be that our liberal friends here in the House complained repeatedly if they thought a Republican bill might, in some way, invade some room in the house. Yet without a single Republican vote, the Democrats passed through a law that invades every room in the house.